

Sacramento River Temperature Task Group (SRTTG) Meeting
Thursday, July 28, 2016 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

MEETING SUMMARY

Participants

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|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Don Bader, USBR | • Jason Roberts, CDFW |
| • Charles Chamberlain, USBR | • John Rueth, USFWS |
| • Miles Daniels, NMFS | • Richard Satkowski, SWRCB |
| • Eric Danner, NMFS | • Jim Smith, USFWS |
| • Kyle De Juilio, Yurok Tribe | • Stacey Smith, USBR |
| • Vadim Demchuk, SWRCB | • Mike Wright, USBR |
| • Robert Franklin, Hoopa Valley Tribe | • Mike Harty, Kearns & West |
| • Michael Hendrick, USBR | (Facilitator) |
| • Josh Israel, USBR | |
| • Liz Kiteck, USBR | Note-taking: |
| • Duane Linander, CDFW | 1. Briana Seapy, Kearns & West |
| • Ron Milligan, USBR | |

Action Items:

1. USBR will study the impacts of the 'high flow' model scenario on Clear Creek
2. USBR will update the Temperature Plan's forecasts with information from July and distribute to SRTTG
3. SRTTG members will provide USBR with input on SRTTG membership criteria/participation in advance of the August 25 meeting
4. USBR will agendize a SRTTG membership/participation/purpose discussion for the August 25 meeting
5. USBR will review Hoopa Valley Tribe's call for a release of water on the Trinity.
6. USBR will confirm with the SWRCB the status of the October, 2015 temperature exceedance report for compliance with Water Rights order 90-5
7. USBR will schedule a follow-up conversation with the Hoopa Valley Tribe to discuss, among other topics, the restoration program and the Tribe's letter calling for the release of Trinity water

Key Discussion Topics with Summary of Outcomes and Agreements

USBR advised participants that the SWRCB approved the Sacramento River Temperature Management Plan in early July and noted that USBR is monitoring the control device and river closely. USBR commented that the temperatures are tracking better than anticipated based on the June model run that served as the basis for much of the Temperature Plan.

Fishery Update

CDFW summarized the status of redd and carcass counts, noting that this year's carcass counts are around 20% lower than 2011 counts and the lowest on record for the 2003-2016 sampling period. CDFW has located 4 redds 3 miles below the CCR gauge. Thermographs have been installed on River Left below the confluence with Clear Creek, near the downstream-most redd.

USFWS reported on brood stock collection for the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery, advising that 51 females have been spawned at the hatchery, leaving only three more females to spawn. The majority of fish are 2-year-olds and egg survival to hatching is at 93%. USFWS noted that spawning is occurring later this year than in years past and suggested that carcass surveys may be experiencing lower counts due to the delayed spawning. Bi-weekly juvenile winter run counts began in mid-July, and anywhere from 2 to 10 fish have been recorded each day, which is higher than in recent years, but not unusual from a historic standpoint. USFWS anticipates having a better abundance estimate in 4-6 weeks.

Hydrology & Operations Update

(See July 28 Meeting Agenda and Handout for the following reference materials: Mean Daily Water Temperatures; Redding 10-day Forecasted Air Temperatures; Sac River Gage Temp Plot and Air Temp Plot; Lake Shasta Isothermalbaths Plot; 7 DADM; Lake Shasta Current TCD Configuration; information is available on CVO's web-page)

USBR reviewed system water temperatures and the Shasta TCD configuration and commented that water temperatures are staying fairly cool even with warmer weather; Ball's Ferry is tracking below the 56.0° F limit. As of July 26, all five middle gates were open as well as two upper gates. In anticipation of continued warm temperatures, USBR is prepared to close the upper gates and open a lower gate (Pressure Relief Gate) if needed to decrease water temperatures downstream in early August.

USBR reviewed July air temperatures, noting that increased air temperatures are expected in early August.

USBR reviewed the July Lake Shasta isothermal profile which indicates that the cold water pool continues to decrease, but that over 3.6 million acre feet of storage remains.

USBR reviewed 7 DADM water temperatures, commenting that both SAC and CCR are tracking below 55° F.

July Temperature Studies

(See July 28 Meeting Agenda and Handout: Sacramento River Modeled Temperature; Redding Average/Maximum Daily Air Temp)

USBR reviewed the July 90% Temperature Model run, with an estimated 10,500 cfs in July, 10,000 cfs in August, 9,000 cfs in September, and 6,500 cfs in October. With these release parameters, the model predicts that the average temperature at Ball's Ferry will continue to be at or below 56° F. Overall the status of the remaining cold water pool is better than expected.

USRB reviewed a second 90% July Temperature Model run based on higher flow releases of 10,500 cfs in August, 10,000 cfs in September, and 8,000 cfs in October, decreasing to 5,500 cfs by the end of October. The temperature outcomes of this model run were similar to those of the standard model run with a slightly lower reservoir at the end of September. A reason to consider higher releases is to help alleviate salinity pressures in the Delta. Anticipated impacts on Clear Creek from the higher flow scenario are unknown, but USBR plans to consider them. USBR is also in the process of gathering input from the SWIM team on the higher flows but anticipates staying at 10,500 cfs release levels into the first week of August. With additional input from the SWIM team, USBR will refine a proposal for increased releases similar to the high flow model scenario and discuss at the director's level with NMFS. If appropriate, USBR may make a request to NMFS, CDFW and the SWRCB to release higher flows.

USFWS commented that USBR has been helping USFWS keep Clear Creek average daily temperature around 60° F with the intent to encourage Chinook to migrate higher up in the system and avoid the risk of hybridization with fall-run Chinook. USFWS noted that a snorkel survey of Clear Creek is scheduled for late August.

Trinity Update

(See July 28 Meeting Agenda and Handout: Trinity Lake Isothermalbaths)

USBR updated the SRTTG on the potential use of preventative flows from Lewiston Lake on the Trinity River to avert an adult fall-run Chinook salmon die-off. A draft environmental impact assessment is due out in early August. Preventative flows would be triggered based on real-time fishery and river conditions

USBR reviewed Trinity isothermalbaths, commenting that last year at this time, volumes of water at or below 50° F were several thousand acre feet less than volumes of water at or below 50° F today.

General Discussion

A Hoopa Valley Tribe representative raised three overarching comments/questions:

- 1) How is the SRTTG informing [USBR] temperature decisions and planning and when will stakeholders receive 12 month forecasts?
- 2) There is concern after last year's temperature exceedances during the peak of fall chinook spawning that similar temperature exceedances will recur. Information on the Trinity River should be provided to the SRTTG or the Trinity River should be afforded a separate technical venue.
- 3) Did USBR file a report after the October, 2015 temperature exceedances in accordance with

Water Rights Order 90-5 that require permittees to report adverse effects? Has USBR received a tribal letter calling for release of water?

USBR responded as follows:

- 1) Gathering input from the SRTTG on interactions between all Shasta operations and Trinity operations to generate a wider view of the northern system.
- 2) Less concerned for temperature exceedances this year than in years past, and though USBR is considering adding Trinity information to the SRTTG, the need to track Trinity is less than the need to track Shasta.
- 3) Will follow up with the SWRCB to confirm whether a report was filed in October, 2015 and will review a tribal call for a release of water on the Trinity.

The SRTTG was reminded of the timeline for technical teams to produce the biological opinion RPA annual report for the Sacramento River, due in mid to late September. USBR commented that the report's timeline is ahead of the information that would be necessary for a complete report. The timeline will not change this year, but it may be extended in future years to allow for a more thoughtful inclusion of late-season data.

The SWRCB asked whether the SRTTG would be open to additional parties joining the group including the Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and several NGOs.

USBR commented that it is contemplating the size and interests of the SRTTG and wants to hear the group's perspective on how to structure group participation and membership involvement to maximize group value.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SRTTG is scheduled for Thursday, August 25 at 1pm. The next SRTTG meeting will be held at USFWS, Red Bluff. Prior to the 1:00 pm meeting, FWS is offering to show interested parties their rotary screw traps. If you would like to participate in the 'field trip' to see the traps, meet at the Red Bluff office (10950 Tyler Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080) by 10:00 am. The field trip should conclude by 12:00 noon.